

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, starting at line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 6(a) - ~~6(f)~~6(b) are block diagrams of screen shots and portions of screen shots for the electronic buying guide application.

Please replace the paragraphs on page 8, starting at line 17, with the following amended paragraphs:

Referring to Figure 3, database program 216 submits requests to HEDS 14 via remote access software 302, such as Oracle SQL*NET. The requests include information for directing HEDS 14 to execute any one of a number of stored procedures 304 on RDBMS 306 data. Stored procedures 304 contain the business logic for supporting certain applications in the network, such as an electronic buying guide application and a quick buy application (discussed below).

RDBMS 306 data is populated by multiple sources. These sources include CCP 24, which can provide data such as broadcast schedules, product lists, product information and order status information; CAS 16, which provides data from user inputs such as credit card data, pass codes, multiple user profiles and specific transaction information; and an MSO billing system, which provides household specific information including name, address, telephone number, and an unique identifier for a user's STB.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, starting at line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 5(a) and Fig. 5(b), QB 400 displays a tab screen ~~600~~404 containing a product list and certain product information, such as prices for each of the items. A possible embodiment of the tab screen ~~600~~ displayed by QB 400 could be configured as shown in quick buy tab 406. Quick buy tab 406 may be translucent and overlays a portion of the video of the tuned channel. When quick buy tab 406 is displayed, QB 400 can remove the quick buy icon, if any, from the television screen.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, starting at line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 6(a) and Fig. 6(b), detail window 502 provides additional detail about products that may be purchased, or for which more information can be displayed. Detail window 502 may include any of the following: a header 508, at least one graphics box 510, at least one text box 512 and at least one input box 514. Header 508 can contain text much like the text box described below. The graphics box 510 can display a picture in any one of a number of formats such as bitmap (.bmp), joint photographic experts group (JPEG), graphics interchange format (.git), etc. Text box 512 can be configured to display text in various font styles and point sizes and may or may not include a scrolling feature for text of a length exceeding the size of the box. Input box 514 is a data entry field which can be populated by the user in several ways. For example, it can be populated by the user directly from STB 18 remote control numeric keys, or by a pull down menu containing a predetermined number and type of data options from which the user can choose.

Please replace the paragraphs on page 13, starting at line 10, with the following amended paragraphs:

Referring to ~~Figs. 6(c) and 6(d)~~ Figs. 5(a)-5(d) and 6(a)-6(b), tab screen display window 506 has at least one tab screen 600. When more than one tab is presented in tab screen display window 506, tab 602, screen detail 604, and button bar 606 of an active tab screen ~~516~~616 are displayed, but only tab 602 of each inactive tab screen 518 is displayed. The user can switch from the active tab screen ~~516~~616 to an adjacent inactive tab screen 518 by pressing a defined STB 18 remote control key such as the left and right arrow keys. In another embodiment, the user can switch from an active tab screen ~~516~~616 to an inactive tab screen 518 by pressing the numeric key on STB 18 remote control that corresponds to a number assigned to a tab screen 600, which may be displayed on tab 602. When such user input occurs, the active tab screen ~~516~~616 becomes an inactive tab screen 518, and the newly selected inactive tab screen 518 becomes the active tab screen ~~516~~616.

~~Referring to Fig. 6(d), each~~ Each tab screen 600 may include a tab 602, at least one section of screen detail 604, and at least one button bar 606. Tab 602, which generally functions to identify the tab screen 600, can display graphics or text in various font styles and point sizes.

Referring to ~~Fig. 6(e)~~ Figs. 5(b)-5(d), screen detail 604 within a tab screen can have several components. For example, a list 608 can include at least one header 610, at least one list box ~~612~~614, at least one scroll bar 616, and a scroll bar indicator 618. As an alternative, a text component 620 can include at least one header 610, at least one text box 622, at least one input box 514 (see Fig. 6(b)), and at least one scroll bar ~~616~~, and a scroll bar indicator ~~618~~(not shown). Header 610 can contain text much like text box 622 described below.

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, starting at line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Referring to Figs. 6(b) and 6(f), button~~The button bar 606 may include one or more buttons 624 and button text 626. Button text 626 can be configured to display text in various font styles and point sizes and is generally used to identify the function of an associated button 624; however, button text 626 can also be utilized in the absence of an associated button 624 to convey information to the user. A button 624 is a virtual representation of a defined input key on a STB 18 remote control. A button 624 may be displayed on the button bar ~~606~~ graphically or textually, or by a combination of the two. The client application 12, such as the QB 400 or the EBG 500, maps the button 624 to the corresponding STB remote control key by registering its interest in such a key with the STB operating system. For example, when the user selects the mapped key on the STB remote control, the STB operating system delivers the user input to client application 12, and client application 12 in turn calls the function associated with such input.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15, starting at line 29, with the following amended paragraphs:

In a typical embodiment of EBG 500, the functionality available to the user at any given time is driven by the active tab screen ~~546~~616. EBG functionality presented by a given active tab screen ~~546~~616 determines the configuration of the EBG interface, including the location, number and configuration of detail windows 502 and video capture windows 504. Each of the components of the EBG 500 interface provides information to the user, receives information from the user, or both. A number of active tab screens can be included in EBG 500.

One of the screens within the EBG is a quick buy tab screen 600. The functionality of such a tab is similar to that of quick buy tab 406 described above in an embodiment of the QB application. In both instances, the key function of the quick buy tab screen is to display a list of products, preferably associated with the underlying programming being displayed on the tuned channel. When the quick buy tab screen is utilized in the EBG context, the tuned channel is captured in a video capture window 504 and a detail window 502, configured in accordance with the need for information about the product, is available to display real-time detailed product information about a given product as the user scrolls through the product list. When the user selects a product to purchase, the detail window 502 can then be utilized to display further information and request user input, such as quantity, style, color, size, etc., regarding the selected product. In another instance, a video capture window can be utilized to display video information regarding the selected product.

Another screen is a favorites tab screen. The favorites tab screen can have detail similar to that shown in Fig. 6(e)5(b) and can function identically to the quick buy tab screen described above, except that the user, rather than the underlying programming, determines the content of the product list. The user may add items to the favorites list by tagging any item the user so designates as a “favorite” while viewing any other product list provided by any client application at any time. The favorites tab screen also provides the user with the functionality to remove items from the favorites list. The favorites list is stored in the HEDS for later retrieval as discussed in conjunction with Fig. 2, even after the client application has been closed and reopened. In other words, the storage is essentially permanent. The user can therefore delay purchase of a particular item, while the favorites list provides a convenient way to maintain the list for the user.